

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 and 28-41 are pending in this application. Claim 26 is allowed. Claims 5 and 11 stand objected to. Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-25, and 28-41 stand rejected. Claims 40 and 41 are canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 5-25 and 28-39 are at issue.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 13-25 and 28-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Haller, et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,182,261. Claims 40 and 41 are canceled without prejudice. Reconsideration is respectfully requested with respect to the remaining claims.

Haller does not disclose the iterative, decoding of frames for times longer than, and less than, a predetermined time constraint, such that an average decoding time of all decoded frames is less than or equal to the predetermined time constraint. The cited portion of Haller does not disclose a predetermined time constraint. For example, simply noting that one decoder may finish decoding before another decoder does not establish a predetermined time constraint, and does not mean that the first-to-finish decoder imposes a time constraint on the second decoder (e.g., Haller, Col. 3, ll. 34-36, “the processor that finishes an iteration first waits for the second processor to finish processing, and then the packets are switched between decoders.”) Also, the expectation that decoding may be performed “twice as fast” does not impose any time constraint (much less a predetermined time constraint) as to how much time may actually be spent performing iterative decoding. Additionally, the cited portions of Haller do not disclose an average decoding time of all decoded frames that is less than or equal to a predetermined time constraint.

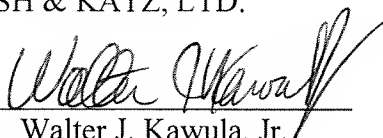
In view of the foregoing, Haller does not disclose the iterative decoding recited in independent claims 1, 28, and 32, each of which recite iterative decoding with respect to a predetermined time constraint, and such claims are not anticipated. Dependent claims 2-4, 6, 7, 13-21, and 28-39 are not anticipated for this same reason.

Regarding claim 23, that claim does not recite a "predetermined time constraint." Instead, claim 23 recites inter alia, iteratively decoding frames, with at least one frame being decoded within a time period that is less than a time constraint of the communications system. Haller has not been shown to disclose such a feature. Thus, claim 23 and dependent claims 24 and 25 are believed allowable over Haller.

Claims 8, 9, 10, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Haller in view of Davis, U.S. Patent No. 6,781,971. As set forth above, Haller does disclose all of the elements of the independent claims. Davis does not supply the missing elements either. Accordingly, neither Haller nor Davis, either alone or in combination, disclose all of the elements of claims 8, 9, 10, and 12, and those claims are not rendered obvious by the cited references.

In conclusion, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner finds that there are any outstanding issues which may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
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